



J. TYLER McCAULEY
AUDITOR-CONTROLLER

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF AUDITOR-CONTROLLER**

KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION
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LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012-2766
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December 29, 2006

TO: Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, Chairman
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonoyich
FROM: J. Tyler McCauley *[Signature]*
Auditor-Controller

SUBJECT: **GROUP HOME PROGRAM MONITORING REPORT – RENAISSANCE
UNLIMITED, RENAISSANCE 1 AND 2 GROUP HOMES**

We have completed a review of Renaissance 1 and 2 Group Homes (Group Home or Agency) operated by Renaissance Unlimited, Incorporated. Both Group Homes contract with the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and the Probation Department (Probation).

Renaissance 1 and 2 Group Homes are each six bed facilities, which provide care for boys, ages 13-17 years who exhibit behavioral, social, and emotional difficulties. At the time of the monitoring visit, Renaissance 1 and 2 Group Homes were each providing services for six DCFS children.

Renaissance 1 and 2 Group Homes are located in the Second District.

Scope of Review

The purpose of the review is to determine whether the Agency is providing the services as outlined in their Program Statement. Additionally, the review covers basic child safety and licensing issues, and includes an evaluation of the Agency's Program Statement, internal policies and procedures, child case records, a facility inspection, and interviews with children placed in the Group Home at the time of the review. Interviews with children are designed to obtain their perspectives on the program

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services provided by the Agency, and to ensure adherence to the Foster Youth Bill of Rights.

Summary of Findings

Generally, the Agency is providing the services as outlined in their Program Statement. The Agency needs to address a few deficient areas.

Both Group Homes need to encourage and assist children in creating and maintaining photo albums/life books.

Renaissance 2 Group Home needs to provide children with sufficient recreational activities; and provide children with opportunities to participate in planning activities.

Attached is a detailed report of the review.

Review of Report

We discussed our report with the Agency's management. In response to the recommendations made in the report, the Agency's management completed a corrective action plan (attached) which we approved. We thank the management and staff for their cooperation during our review.

If you have any questions, please contact me, or have your staff contact Mike Pirolo at (626) 293-1110.

JTM:MP:CC:asl
http://auditor.co.la.ca.us/group_home.asp

Attachments

c: David E. Janssen, Chief Administrative Officer
Patricia S. Ploehn, Director, DCFS
Robert B. Taylor, Chief Probation Officer
Carol Choyce, Executive Director, Renaissance Unlimited
Public Information Office
Audit Committee

**Renaissance 1 Group Home
2718 South Redondo Boulevard
Los Angeles, California 90016
Phone: (323) 935-1786
License Number: (323) 935-5411
Rate Classification Level: 6**

I. Facility and Environment

Method of assessment – Observation

Comments:

Renaissance 1 Group Home is located in a residential community. The exterior of the Group Home is well maintained. The front and back yards are clean, and adequately landscaped.

The interior of the Group Home is well maintained. The common quarters are neat and clean. There is adequate furniture and lighting in the Group Home. The Group Home provides a home-like environment.

Children's bedrooms are well maintained. The rooms are clean and orderly, and have age-appropriate personalized decorations. There is adequate furniture, lighting, and storage space. Window coverings and window screens are in good repair. The mattresses are comfortable, and the beds all have a full complement of linens. Children's sleeping arrangements are appropriate.

The Group Home maintains age appropriate and accessible recreational equipment. There are also board games, a TV, and a DVD player. Books and resource materials, including a computer with a variety of programs, are also available.

The Group Home maintains a sufficient supply of perishable and non perishable foods.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

II. Program Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size: Two

Comments:

Children meet the Group Home's population criteria as outlined in their Program Statement. Children are assessed for needed services within thirty days of placement.

The treatment team develops and implements the Needs and Services Plans (NSPs) with input from the child. The NSPs are current, comprehensive, and include short and long term goals.

Case files reflect adequate documentation to show that children are receiving treatment services.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

III. Educational and Emancipation Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size: Two

Comments:

Children are attending school. Children are provided with educational support and resources to meet their educational needs, and are progressing satisfactorily in school. The Group Home's program includes the development of children's daily living, self-help, and survival skills.

Children are provided with opportunities to participate in emancipation and vocational programs as appropriate.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

IV. Recreation and Activities

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size: Two

Comments:

The Group Home provides children with sufficient recreational activities, and leisure time. Children are provided with opportunities to participate in planning activities.

Children participate in extra-curricular, enrichment, and social activities in which they have an interest.

The Group Home provides transportation to and from the activities.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

V. Psychotropic Medication

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents

Comments:

According to the Agency's management, there are currently no children taking psychotropic medication. This information is appropriately documented.

Children are aware of their right to refuse medication.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

VI. Personal Rights

Method of assessment –Interviews with children

Sample size: Two

Comments:

Children are informed about the Group Home's policies and procedures. Children report that they feel safe in the Group Home, and are provided with appropriate staff supervision. Children express satisfaction with the quality of their interactions with staff, and report that staff treats them with respect and dignity.

Children report that they are assigned chores that are reasonable and not too demanding. Children are able to make and receive personal telephone calls, send and receive unopened mail, and have private visitors. Children are able to attend religious services of their choice.

Children report that the discipline policies are consistently enforced and that there are fair and appropriate consequences for inappropriate behavior.

Children report satisfaction with meals and snacks.

Children receive voluntary medical, dental, and psychiatric care.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

VII. Clothing and Allowance

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size: Two

Comments:

The Group Home provides appropriate clothing, items of necessity, and the required \$50 monthly clothing allowance to children. Children are provided with opportunities to select their own clothes. Clothing provided to children is of good quality and of sufficient quantity.

The Group Home provides children with the required minimum weekly allowance. Children spend their allowances as they choose.

The Group Home provides children with adequate personal care items.

Children are not encouraged or assisted in creating and maintaining photo albums/life books.

Recommendation

- 1. Renaissance Unlimited management encourage and assist children in creating and maintaining photo albums/life books.**

Renaissance 2 Group Home
14835 Purche Avenue
Gardena, California 90249
Phone: (310) 323-8096
FAX: (323) 934-5411
License Number: 198201583
Rate Classification Level: 6

I. Facility and Environment

Method of assessment – Observation

Comments:

Renaissance 2 Group Home is located in a residential community. The exterior of the Group Home is well maintained. The front and back yards are clean, and adequately landscaped.

The interior of the Group Home is well maintained. The common quarters are neat and clean. There is adequate furniture and lighting in the Group Home. The Group Home provides a home-like environment.

Children's bedrooms are well maintained. The rooms are clean and orderly, and have age-appropriate personalized decorations. There is adequate furniture, lighting, and storage space. Window coverings and window screens are in good repair. The mattresses are comfortable, and the beds all have a full complement of linens. Children's sleeping arrangements are appropriate.

The Group Home maintains age appropriate and accessible recreational equipment. There are also board games, a TV, and a DVD player. Books and resource materials, including a computer with a variety of programs, are also available.

The Group Home maintains a sufficient supply of perishable and non perishable foods.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

II. Program Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size: Two

Comments:

Children meet the Group Home's population criteria as outlined in their Program Statement. Children are assessed for needed services within thirty days of placement.

The treatment team develops and implements the Needs and Services Plans (NSPs) with input from the child. The NSPs are current, comprehensive, and include short and long term goals.

Case files reflect adequate documentation to show that children are receiving treatment services.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

III. Educational and Emancipation Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size: Two

Comments:

Children are attending school. Children are provided with educational support and resources to meet their educational needs, and are progressing satisfactorily in school. The Group Home's program includes the development of children's daily living, self-help, and survival skills.

Children are provided with opportunities to participate in emancipation and vocational programs as appropriate.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

IV. Recreation and Activities

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size: Two

Comments:

Children are provided with sufficient leisure time, and participate in extra-curricular, enrichment, and social activities in which they have an interest. However, the Group Home does not provide children with sufficient recreational activities, and children are not provided with opportunities to participate in planning activities.

The Group Home provides transportation to and from the activities.

Recommendations**1. Renaissance Unlimited management:**

- a. Provide children with additional recreational activities.
- b. Provide children with opportunities to participate in planning activities.

V. Psychotropic Medication**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents****Comments:**

According to the Agency's management, there are currently no children taking psychotropic medications. This information is appropriately documented.

Children are aware of their right to refuse medication.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

VI. Personal Rights**Method of assessment –Interviews with children**

Sample size: Two

Comments:

Children are informed about the Group Home's policies and procedures. Children report that they feel safe in the Group Home, and are provided with appropriate staff supervision. Children express satisfaction with the quality of their interactions with staff, and report that staff treats them with respect and dignity.

Children report that they are assigned chores that are reasonable and not too demanding. Children are able to make and receive personal telephone calls, send and receive unopened mail, and have private visitors. Children are able to attend religious services of their choice.

Children report that the discipline policies are consistently enforced and that there are fair and appropriate consequences for inappropriate behavior.

Children report satisfaction with meals and snacks.

Children receive voluntary medical, dental, and psychiatric care.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

VII. Clothing and Allowance

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size: Two

Comments:

The Group Home provides appropriate clothing, items of necessity, and the required \$50 monthly clothing allowance to children. Children are provided with opportunities to select their own clothes. Clothing provided to children is of good quality and of sufficient quantity.

The Group Home provides children with the required minimum weekly allowance. Children spend their allowances as they choose.

The Group Home provides children with adequate personal care items.

Children are not encouraged or assisted in creating and maintaining photo albums/life books.

Recommendation

- 2. Renaissance Unlimited management encourage and assist children in creating and maintaining photo albums/life books.**



Renaissance Unlimited



2718 Redondo Blvd. ♦ Los Angeles, CA 90018 ♦ (323) 935-1786

June 10, 2006

Candace Rhue
Group Home Audit Supervisor
Dept of Auditor-Controller, Kenneth Hahn Hall of Admin.
500 W. temple Street, Room 515-A
Los Angeles CA 90012

Dear Candace:

RE: 2718 Redondo Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90249

The recommendation made during your last visit to the facility listed above has been implemented as follows:

RECOMMENDATION:

Renaissance to encourage and assist children in creating and maintaining photo albums/life books:

Facility has already acquired and is assisting clients in creating and maintaining photo albums/life books. Carol Choyce, facility manager, is responsible for ensuring that this activity is sustained.

If you have any question, please feel free to call Carol Choyce at (323)935-1786.

Your professionalism during the audit process is appreciated.

Sincerely,

Dr. Richard Nzenwa, Admin.



Renaissance Unlimited



2718 Redondo Blvd. ♦ Los Angeles, CA 90018 ♦ (323) 935-1786

June 10, 2006

Candace Rhue
Group Home Audit Supervisor
Dept of Auditor-Controller, Kenneth Hahn Hall of Admin.
500 W. temple Street, Room 515-A
Los Angeles CA 90012

Dear Candace:

RE: 14835 Purche Ave., Gardena CA 90249

The recommendations made during your last visit to the facility listed above have been implemented as follows:

RECOMMENDATION:

- (1) Renaissance to provide children with sufficient recreational activities.
- (2) Renaissance to provide children with opportunities to participate in planning activities.

Facility has added new weights to the weight bench. Facility has also purchased new board games for the children. Our children are now involved in the planning of weekly activities. Shelia Walker, Facility manager, is responsible for overseeing all recreational activities.

RECOMMENDATION:

Renaissance to encourage and assist children in creating and maintaining photo albums/life books:

Facility has already acquired and is assisting clients in creating and maintaining photo albums/life books. Shelia Walker, facility manager, is responsible for ensuring that this activity is sustained.

If you have any question, please feel free to call Carol Choyce me at (323)935-1786.

Your professionalism during the audit process is appreciated.

Sincerely,

Dr. Richard Nzenwa, Admin.